



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Use of Coin Scales

1 message

Leo Shane <[REDACTED]>

To: [REDACTED]

Tue, Mar 13, 2012 at 10:18 PM

Mr Newman

I wrote to you a while back in regard to your book on coin scales. Since I am the C4 librarian, I have access to your book and all the others in our library. I have a question that I have discussed with other members in C4. I'm hoping you can help us answer it. Here goes.

Many Eighteenth coin charts in Almanacks, Ready Reckoners and on the lid of the coin scale boxes list an accepted weight for various coins such as a Guinea at 5 dwt 6 grains. Sometimes, they also state that for each grain underweight subtract Xd in value. My question is how can you determine that a coin is 1, 2 or 3 grains light? The hand scale box would typically contain a 5, 6 coin weight in it so if it was the proper weight, the scale pointed would be vertical. But if it's light, the scale pointed would be off to one side. There is no indication on the scale that tells us how many grains it is off, we just know that the coin is light.

I read in some articles that to determine how many grains the coin was light, the user used weights to balance the scale. That sounds logical, except I have never seen or heard of coin weight that were 1, 2 or 3 grains. Were there such weights? Was there some other way that they could measure or estimate that a coin was light by small amounts such as 1,2 or 3 grains? Any information you can give me on this subject is greatly appreciated.

Thank You

Leo Shane



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Re: Use of Coin Scales

2 messages

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED]

Thu, Mar 22, 2012 at 2:03 PM

Dear Leo Shane:

Your question about the determination of the value of a short weight coin being weighed in an American Coin Scale has forced me to think about the matter further. I had not come across your problem before. Are you acquainted with American jeweler's scales which are used for weighing diamonds, other jewels, gold items and scrap. etc. I have one but will take a while to find it. It has a famous and long used designer's name which slips my memory for the moment. Each grain in weight is clearly marked on it. No value indication is indicated because that is almost always irrelevant.

Under these circumstances my thinking as to why an American coin scale has no value component comes to this conclusion. A person is using the scale only for coins, many of which may be light weight and possibly counterfeit. Determining a value by a weight deficiency is therefore very risky and the scale maker wants a customary user to avoid that problem and the resultant criticism from being apparently deceived by the scale.

In Great Britain some of the coin scales use them to determine value and have adjustments for grain weight deficiency value determination.

Please think over what I have said and see if it is helpful.

Good luck and enjoyment out of your position. Feel free to ask me anything you think I may be able to answer,

Eric P. Newman

In a message dated 3/13/2012 9:18:18 P.M. Central Daylight Time, [REDACTED]
writes:

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Thank You
Leo Shane

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Leo Shane <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Mar 22, 2012 at 8:34 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Mr Newman

Thank you for your reply. It is timely that I received it today, since I have just returned from spending the day at the Whitman coin show in Baltimore. I have asked the question of a few people there who are knowledgeable in Colonial History and Colonial Numismatics. Three of these individuals independently told me the same thing. Evidently there were coin weights of a few grains used during the eighteenth century. These weights were very small and paper thin. They could be added to the scale pan with the coin on it to bring it into balance. Once it was balanced, you determined how much weight needed to be added to the coin pan and that was how light the coin was. You can then subtract the value of that many grains to arrive at a value for a coin that was light.

I have been assured that these very small, very light weights do exist even though I have never seen any. I guess that is something I'll have to add to my collection.

Thanks for your input.

Leo

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, 22 Mar 2012 15:03:03 -0400
Subject: Re: Use of Coin Scales
To: [REDACTED]
[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

tiny coin weights

1 message

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED]

Mon, Mar 26, 2012 at 1:28 PM

Dear Mr. Shane:

I am glad that you discussed your matter with others at the recent coin show. I believe I have American coin weights as low as 1/2 grain. I recognize that it is simple to arrive at a close weight deviation for a coin,

I was under the impression that you`were interested in the value of the coin which was underweight and I tried to explain how determining the actual short weight of a coin puts one at risk for value determination if the coin is a counterfeit or altered piece. That is the reason in my opinion why a coin scale avoided indicating the value of a short weight coin even if only a printed proper weight for a full weight coin was included on the lid or box top of a coin scale plus its normal value under full weight circumstances. .

Eric P. Newman ..